

Ex-Marine may face death if guilty of killing

By John Miller
The Tribune

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LIVERMORE — An ex-Marine and admitted drug user and burglar was arraigned yesterday on murder, rape and burglary charges in the stabbing death of a nurse.

If convicted, Richard Christopher Tully, 28, could face the gas chamber. He is accused of slaying Shirley "Sandy" Olsson, 59, whose nude body was found in her home in July.

Bail for Tully, a part-time construction worker, was set at \$500,000 and he is scheduled to enter a plea tomorrow in Livermore-Pleasanton Municipal Court.

Livermore police arrested Tully on drug charges Friday, and later that day he was booked

on charges of killing Olsson.

Olsson was a nurse at the Livermore Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Police declined to say whether Tully made any statements about the slaying, but said they had collected "an enormous" amount of evidence in the case.

Capt. Lee Evanson said police had considered Tully a suspect since he was stopped early last month for questioning on drug charges.

Evanson said Tully once lived two doors down from the victim's home on Hollyhock Street and was familiar with Olsson's habits and routine.

He said Tully's fingerprints match those on a buck knife found in the rear of a house at 1313 Aster Lane in the same

neighborhood.

"That's his fingerprints on that weapon, and that's the murder weapon," Evanson said.

Evanson said the investigation is continuing.

As to possible motive, Evanson said: "I believe he entered that house to commit a rape."

Police recovered Olsson's purse from a duck pond near her home.

Evanson said Tully was matched against an FBI "psychological profile" of the killer and "it was pretty accurate."

He said the department has other evidence that points to Tully as the killer.

When he was arrested on drug investigation charges, Tully told police that he used methamphetamine "four or five times a

day" and burglarized cars homes to support his habit, Evanson said.

Friends told police that Tully would frequently flash his buck knife when he became upset, an officer added.

His landlord, John W. Clendler, 48, of 1572 Hollyhock Street, told police that Tully "didn't know anybody in the neighborhood" and that he doubted Olsson would have let Tully into her home because of Tully's scrub appearance.

Tully is an ex-Marine and a graduate of Granada High School here. He was arrested at the home of his wife's parents, 1313 Church Drive in Pleasanton.

Evanson said Tully and his wife are separated.

SAT MAR 28 1987
Man arrested in Livermore slaying

LIVERMORE — Police yesterday arrested Richard Christopher Tully, 28, for investigation of the murder eight months ago of Sandy Olsson, 59, a well-liked and respected nurse at the Livermore Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Olsson's body was found in her Springtown home on Hollyhock Street in July 1986. She had been stabbed 28 times.

Police Chief Mel Nelson said Tully was arrested without inci-

dent at 4097 Churchill St. in Pleasanton.

He has been booked at Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center for investigation of murder, and Nelson said a criminal complaint will be sought from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office on Monday.

Tully also is charged with possession of methamphetamines for sale.

Nelson said the investigation is continuing.

Suspect in Livermore nurse's slaying enters innocent plea

THU APR 30 1987
The Tribune

LIVERMORE — Richard Christopher Tully, 28, an ex-marine and former Granada High School student, yesterday pleaded innocent to charges that he raped and murdered Shirley "Sandy" Olsson, 59, last July in her home in the quiet Springtown section of the city.

Tully remains in custody at the Santa Rita jail, unable to post the \$500,000 bail.

After the brief court appearance, Tully's attorney, public defender Byron Brown, was asked by reporters if he believed in his client's innocence.

"I do at this point," he replied.

Brown asked the court to order the District Attorney's Office to reveal what evidence it

has against Tully at the next court date, May 19, when Livermore-Pleasanton Municipal Judge John A. Lewis will decide what evidence the defense is entitled to see.

Tully, whose feet and hands were shackled, pleaded innocent to charges that he stabbed and strangled Olsson, a highly respected and well-liked nurse who worked at the Livermore Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Olsson, who lived alone, was stabbed 28 times and strangled in her Hollyhock Street home. Tully, who has been arrested twice on drug-related charges, is also accused of raping Olsson and burglarizing her home.

OAKLAND

SAT SEP 5 1992
Tully jurors asked to show murderer mercy

A defense lawyer asked jurors yesterday to have mercy for convicted murderer Richard Tully, saying Tully comes from a dysfunctional family and has a "difficult" mother and an alcoholic stepfather.

In his opening statement in the penalty phase of Tully's trial in Alameda County Superior Court in Oakland, attorney Alfons Wagner said Tully comes from a family where "people scream and fight and don't talk to each other for days."

Tully, 33, was convicted last month of murder with special circumstances, burglary and assault with intent to commit rape in connection with a July 25, 1986, incident in which 58-year-old nurse Shirley "Sandy" Olsson was stabbed to death in her Livermore home.

Olsson's son testified Thursday that his mother had been the "anchor" in his life and he misses her very much.

Wagner said yesterday, "Richard Tully, too, has a family, but it is quite a bit different than the Olsson family." For one thing, Tully, who was born in Turkey and is the son of a former U.S. Air Force sergeant who no longer keeps in touch with his family, "did not have an anchor," Wagner said.

"We will present evidence which will explain how we got here today and which is the basis for you to extend mercy to Richard Tully," Wagner said.

He told jurors that life in prison without the possibility of parole, rather than the death penalty, was the appropriate punishment for Tully. At the end of the penalty phase of Tully's trial, jurors will choose between recommending the death penalty or life in prison.

Livermore police call in FBI, state experts in slaying

THU JUL 31 1986
The Tribune

LIVERMORE — Police have asked for help from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and state fingerprint experts in their investigation of the brutal stabbing death of a 59-year-old woman last week.

Shirley "Sandy" Olsson's nude body was found in her bedroom Friday. She was stabbed 28 times in her chest, back, neck

and head, according to Alameda County coroner's officials. It has not been determined whether she was sexually assaulted.

Olsson, a registered nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital, lived at 1556 Hollyhock St. in the Springtown area, north of Interstate 580.

Her backyard abuts a golf course. Friday morning, some Springtown residents saw her purse floating in a duck pond on

the course. That afternoon, police found a blood-stained Buck knife in a patch of weeds near the course.

Police Capt. Lee Evanson said the department has asked the FBI to develop a psychological profile of the killer. Olsson's death, he said, doesn't appear to be connected to other murders in the area.

The state Department of Justice crime lab took a fingerprint

from the knife, and it now being compared to other prints in the state's CAL-ID computer network. This technique identified Richard Ramirez, the suspect in the "night stalker" slayings.

A hospital co-worker, close friend of Olsson's went to her house and found the body when Olsson didn't show up for work.

Children testify in Tully trial

FRI SEP - 4 1992
By Tribune staff

The two children of Livermore nurse Shirley "Sandy" Olsson testified yesterday that her brutal stabbing death at the hands of Richard Tully has left them devastated, even six years later.

Testifying in the first day of the penalty phase of Tully's trial in Alameda County Superior Court, 35-year-old Sandra Susanne Walters of Petaluma said her mother meant everything to her, describing Olsson as "a very loving and caring person."

Walters said since the murder it has been difficult for her to form close relationships. "It is

difficult for me to be close to anybody because I'm afraid they will go away, just like my mother did," she said.

Walters said she doesn't want to have children because she does not want anyone to go through what she has.

Olsson's son, 36-year-old contractor Elbert Walters III of San Rafael, said, "I could understand if she died from cancer or a car accident, but for her to be murdered — I cannot understand that. It is absolutely asinine."

Tully, 33, was convicted last month of special circumstances murder, burglary and assault with intent to commit rape.

Convicted slayer attacks prosecutor in court

WED SEP 23 1992
A convicted murderer from Livermore attacked a veteran prosecutor in an Oakland courtroom Monday just minutes after a jury recommended the death penalty for him.

Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Burr suffered a small gash above his left eye but later said he would seek treatment from his own physician.

Burr said he was caught by surprise when Richard Tully, convicted of killing a nurse, lunged at him. He apparently was cut when his head hit the corner of a railing as he was falling to the floor.

The jury had been dismissed and left the courtroom when Tully suddenly left the side of his attorneys, Alfons Wagner and Spencer Strellis, and pounced on Burr.

After knocking Burr to the floor, Tully drew his fist back to strike the prosecutor, but was grabbed by two sheriff's bailiffs before he could do any more damage.

Tully, 33, was pulled off Burr, handcuffed and led out of the courtroom by the bailiffs.

After deliberating over a four-day period, the jury recommended that Tully be sentenced to die in the state's gas chamber for the murder of Shirley "Sandy" Olsson, a Livermore nurse who was stabbed 28 times at her Livermore home on July 25, 1986.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge William McGuinness is expected to impose the sentence on Nov. 4.

The same jury convicted Tully last month of first-degree murder and the special circumstances of burglary and assault with the intent to commit rape, which made him eligible for the death penalty.